



An introduction to GEMS (GCCF EMS)

The EMS (*Easy Mind System*) codes were developed by FIFe (*Fédération Internationale Féline d'Europe*) to describe cats of all breeds, colours and patterns without too much complication.

The GCCF is adopting EMS however differences between GCCF and FIFe required changes that resulted in [GEMS](#) (GCCF EMS) codes being developed. The two systems are very similar and it is likely that eventually GEMS will be one of several compatible versions of EMS.

GEMS CODE STRUCTURE

GEMS (and EMS) codes consist of a number of elements separated by spaces; **breed**, **colour** and **numerical codes** (for any other characteristics). GEMS codes may also have a **variant** indication after the numerical codes. Only the breed part is mandatory, the other elements may or may not be required to describe the cat.

Many cats can be described with just four characters and few require more than a dozen.

Breed

The first part of any GEMS code denotes the breed and consists of three upper case letters such as **BUR** (Burmese), **MCO** (Maine Coon), **SIA** (Siamese) etc. If a breed has both short-haired and long-haired varieties, its code will end with **S** (or **SH**) or **L** (or **LH**) to denote the different coat lengths (**LPL** = **LaPerm Longhair**; **OSH** = **Oriental Shorthair** etc.).

Colour

A cat's colour may be described using one or more lower case letters to indicate the basic colour such as **a** (blue), **d** (red) etc. along with additional lower case letters for silver, golden or, in the case of Norwegian Forest Cats, amber.

Numerical Codes

Numbers are used to give information that is specific to some cats. The numerical codes indicate whether a cat has white; tipping or shading; a tabby pattern; a particular colour restriction or an eye colour that affects its breed class. In addition there are a few numerical codes that are breed specific such as Manx tail codes or Ragdoll mitting.

GEMS Code Example

Brown (n) Classic Tabby (22) & White (03) Persian (PER).

PER	n	03 22
Breed	Colour	Eye colour, pattern, tail etc.

Variants

The code **v** is added to the end of a cat's GEMS code sequence to indicate a variant. Variants may not be shown competitively in their own breed classes. They may be eligible for showing in another breed's classes if they have a [Show Code](#) as detailed below.

Variant GEMS Code Example

Lilac Tortie (j) Smoke (s) Colourpointed (33) & White (03) LH (v) British (BRI) Variant (v).

BRI	js	03 33	v	<i>May not be shown in competition. British variants are long-haired cats.</i>
Breed	Colour	Eye colour, pattern, tail etc.	Variant	

SHOW CODES

Show codes are **only** required for variants of a breed that have the phenotype of an existing breed and are allowed to be shown **in this other breed's show classes**. Such variants have two GEMS codes; the first gives genotype and breed description as defined via their registration policy followed by the second, the show code, which is simply another GEMS code in brackets thus () designating phenotype - what the cat 'looks like' - and hence show class.

Show Code Example

Black (n) & White Bicolour (03) Exotic (EXO) LH (v).

EXO n 03 v	(PER n 03)	<i>May not be shown in Exotic classes but may be shown in Persian (PER) classes. Exotic LH are coded as variants.</i>
GEMS Code	Show Code	

SOME GCCF BREEDS AND THEIR GEMS CODES



Korat
KOR



Black Tortie & White Household Pet
NPS



GCCF Bombay
ASH n



British Blue
BRI a



Brown Burmese
BUR n



Lilac Point Birman
SBI c



Red & White Bicolour Persian
PER d 03



Seal Point Snowshoe
SNO n 05



Brown Marbled Bengal
BEN n 22



Silver Spotted Exotic SH
EXO ns 24



Silver Shaded Oriental LH
OLH ns 11



Chocolate Tabby Point Siamese
SIA b 21



Odd-eyed Turkish Vankedisi
TUV w 63



Brown Silver Shaded Burmilla
Burmese Pattern
ASH ns 11 31



Chinchilla
PER ns 12 64